

5-26-04 FCC localism hearings in Rapid City.

I live in Sturgis, SD and don't have good service with radio. I can't pick up KLND, or KILI, and SDPR barely comes in. I want to hear Lakota language spoken, drum, songs, traditional and contemporary story telling. I am interested in what is going on in community, on our reservations. South Dakota needs to access the diversity of our state, not by listening through racist and romanticized filters, but hearing from the people. Giving us only one half of the story is lying by omission.

Sturgis needs a low wave public service - educational station. It would offer critical thought, alternative beliefs and practices. Sturgis needs to have the opportunity to hear from First Nation's perspectives about culture and tradition, and consider other outlooks with regard to environmental degradation caused by urban sprawl and misguided natural resource management.

Is reality TV programming and fictional sitcom "blank thought entertainment"? Sex and violence programing is escalating because we are bored with entertainment, but still want to avoid the discomfort caused from viewing and listening to present time issue's that are taking place in our communities. American history was and still is taught with lies of omission. Shortly after the FCC was established in the same time period that IRA governments were being forced on Indigenous Peoples, Americans went from being viewed and treated like citizens to being viewed and treated like mere consumers. As a citizen I expect a free press.

The Federal Communications Commission should be consulting with Treaty Tribes about the use of spectrum in the Great Sioux Nation. In South Dakota we are reading a newspaper that edits the opinion page, I looked up censorship, it means "security checks". We are occupied. Why do opinions need editing? Will Native Americans disappear further into the black hole of Big Media as they buy up more and more local control?